

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO.
CITY OF PORTOLA
FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION AND CLOSURE OF
PORTOLA CLASS III MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL
PLUMAS COUNTY

The Portola Class III Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the City of Portola. The 31-acre landfill is comprised of two parcels owned by the City of Portola (hereafter Discharger). Solid waste operations have been conducted wholly within the larger 22.46-acre parcel. The site consists of one unlined waste management unit, a scrap metal storage area, a public household hazardous waste collection facility, and a green waste storage area. The facility opened in 1968 as an open burn dump operated by Plumas County. In 1974, Plumas County, in agreement with the City of Portola, began operating the site as a sanitary landfill. On 27 May 1978, the City of Portola took over landfill operations.

The landfill is located within the Basin and Range physiographic province, an area characterized by uplifted and tilted mountain ranges separated by broad elongated basins. Quartz diorite is the predominant geologic unit beneath the site. The quartz diorite is generally very deeply weathered at the surface and grades to a silty sand. Shallow groundwater flow beneath and surrounding the landfill occurs in the highly weathered quartz diorite. Groundwater flow direction in this shallow zone is largely controlled by topography, and generally parallels the slope of the landscape with a flow direction of northeast to southwest.

Nine monitoring wells make up the facility's groundwater monitoring system. First encountered groundwater is about 13 to 38 feet below ground surface. Groundwater monitoring at the site has identified elevated levels of alkalinity, chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids in downgradient monitoring wells. Additionally, volatile organic compounds, including Benzene, Chlorobenzene, Chloroethane, 4-Chlorotoluene, Chloromethane, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, cis-1,2-Dichloroethene, Dichlorofluoromethane, Methyl-tert-Butyl Ether (MtBE), and Methylene Chloride have been detected in downgradient monitoring wells. In response to the groundwater impacts, the Discharger evaluated corrective action measures and proposed landfill closure as the preferred remedial alternative.

A rural residential neighborhood exists within 1,500 feet southwest of the landfill. Many of the residences receive water through individual domestic supply wells. Three of the properties have been routinely sampled by the Discharger as part of the groundwater detection monitoring program. In early 2004, samples from two of the three domestic water supply wells that are sampled by the Discharger had detectable levels of volatile organic compounds. MtBE was detected at 1.4 µg/L in the well owned by Mack and 0.62 µg/L of Chloroform at was detected in the well owned by Prinvale. Subsequent

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resampling by the Discharger and Regional Board staff confirmed the groundwater impacts in these two wells. The Discharger notified both property owners of the VOC detections in letters dated 1 July 2004. It should be noted that Chloroform has never been detected in the landfill monitoring wells.

On 28 October 2004, the Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2004-0719, which required the Discharger to submit Final Closure and Postclosure Maintenance Plans, provide information (including the type of water supply) for properties located within 2,000 feet of the site, submit a work plan for investigating and delineating off-site groundwater impacts (including assessment of additional private domestic water supplies), and to complete landfill closure activities by 15 October 2005.

These proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) prescribe a closure schedule for the landfill, require implementation of a corrective action and evaluation monitoring program, and update existing WDR Order No. 90-307 to be consistent with applicable provisions of Title 27 California Code of Regulations.

DPS/KLC: 01/20/2004